Ai ni Kidzuke yo

by Narazaki Souta



Translated by NightLoverPM
http://nightloverpm.tumblr.com/

Visit my Tumblr for cultural comments, translation notes, download links, and further releases

Many thanks to my friend Hella, for her guidance and support on this project

楢崎壮太
Souta Narazaki



愛に気づけよ

ディアプラス コミックス

愛に気づけよ

楢崎壮太

新書館

9784403660788

1929979005528

ISBN4-403-66078-9

C9979 ¥552E

新書館 定価580円 本体552円

雑誌47520-78





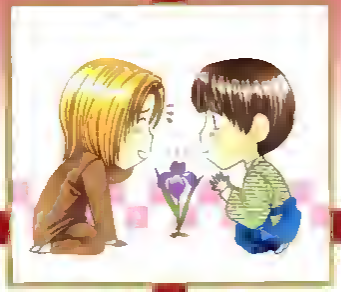
Yoshihara has again bumped into Hoshina, his high school kouhai. Once, when they were both drunk, Yoshihara slept with Hoshina. Since that time, Yoshihara realized that he loved Hoshina, but unable to tell Hoshina his true feelings and unable to withstand the pain of a superficial relationship, Yoshihara distanced himself from Hashina. Aside from the main story, this is a joyful anthology [illegible]

SOUTA NARAZAKI

DEAR+COMICS

[愛に気づけよ] 076

楢崎壮太のCOMICS



PROFILE

Born January 23rd, Aquarius - type AB blood.

Hobbies: collecting MINI Cooper promo items.

Favorite foods: chestnuts, naengmyeon.

Favorite colors: black and orange.

Current infatuation: Matsumoto ●hiro-san.

SOUTA ならざき・そうた NARAZAKI

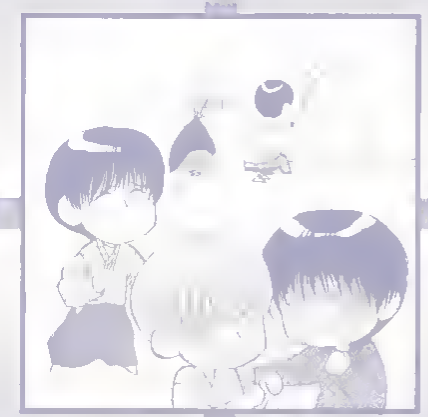
DEAR+COMICS-076



愛に気づけよ

楢崎壮太

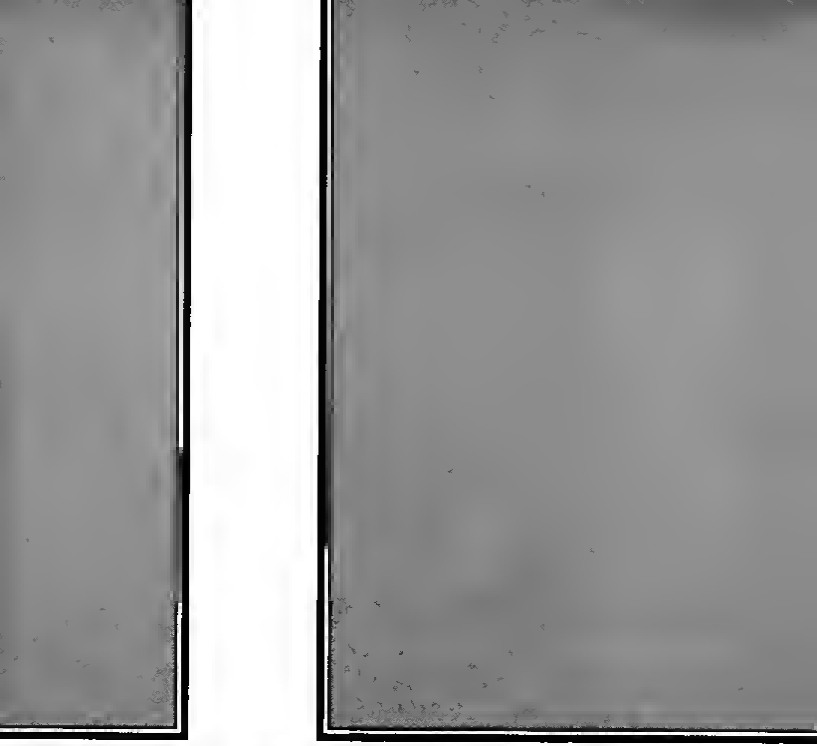
AI NI KIZUKE YO



AI NI KIZUKE YO

SOUTA NARAZAKI ならざき・そうた

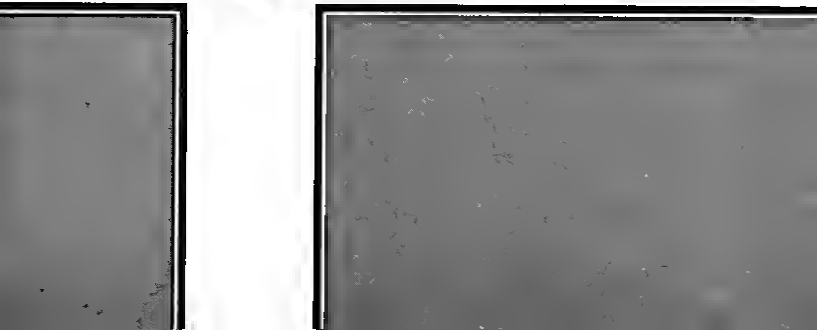




Dear+COMICS076/SHINSHOKAN

愛に気づけよ／楢崎壮太

SOUTA NARAZAKI PRESENTS



Bunch COMICS 007.6

愛に気づけよ

SOUTA NARAZAKI PRESENTS

CONTENTS

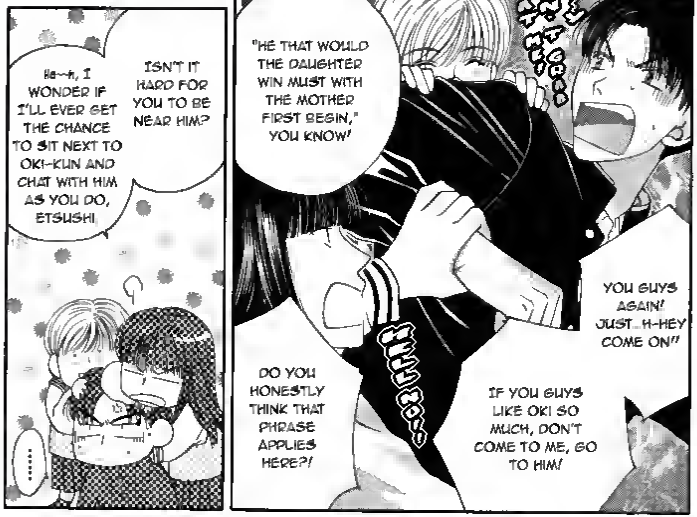
The Unripe Fruit —— 003
Notice My Love —— 037
That Is the Name of the Flower You Cherish —— 071
Pierce Me with Your Gaze! —— 105
HEAT ART BOYS —— 139
Afterword —— 172


青い果実
~The Unripe Fruit~


OK!, HEY OK!——
THIS IS YOUR ERASER.. RI—GHT? YOU DROPPED IT ON THE FLOOR
KASAI.. YOU COULD'VE JUST LEFT IT ON MY DESK SINCE YOU SIT NEXT TO ME..
WELL YE—AH BUT WOULDN'T YOU AGREE THAT WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS, IT'S BETTER TO FIND THE OWNER AND RETURN IT IN PERSON?
Thanks.


EVERYONE ACTS FUNNY AROUND YOU, AND THEY GET EVEN WEIRDER WHEN THEY SEE ME TALKING WITH YOU
I SHOULD'VE AT LEAST WAITED UNTIL WE WERE IN CLASS TO RETURN IT TO YOU...
I can feel everybody's stares...
Why is only Oki so popular?! Is it because of, of his face? It's because of his face, isn't it?!
Everyone is staring at him...
Everyone is staring at me...
.....
AH BUT I KIND OF MESSED UP
Th- the bastard...
.....M-MY FACE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHY YOU'RE POPULAR!
.....I LIKE KASAI'S FACE, TOO


.....
SAYING IT LIKE I'M JUST ONE OF THE MANY FACES YOU LIKE!
AND WHAT'S WITH THAT "TOO"?!
Stupid Oki-!
ARGH! DON'T THINK YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE POPULAR!
WOULD GUYS NORMALLY SAY SUCH THINGS TO OTHER GUYS?! AS IF! THERE'S NO WAY OKI'S AN ORDINARY FIRST YEAR!
He's screwing with me!
I WANT TO BE LIKE THAT WITH OKI-KUN IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY, TOO~~
Aaah YOU'RE SO LUCKY, ETSUSHI, SO RIDICULOUSLY LUUUCKY!
BUT I CAN DEFINITELY SEE WHY HE'S POPULAR.
His face hurt...


Ha~h, I wonder if I'll ever get the chance to sit next to Oki-kun and chat with him as you do, Etsushi
Isn't it hard for you to be near him?
"He that would the daughter win must with the mother first begin," you know!
Hey, Etsushi!
You guys again! Just...h-hey come on!"
If you guys like Oki so much, don't come to me, go to him!
Do you honestly think that phrase applies here?!
Eh, Oki's in a band?
Well of course Oki-kun and his group's!
Hey, Etsushi! Let's go to this week's live together! If we went with you, we might even get to go backstage!
?
A live show? Whose live?


GROUCHY


SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD CHECK THEM ALL OUT, TOO?
NO WAY WOULD I KNOW JUST BECAUSE OTHER PEOPLE DO! THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER GUYS IN BANDS


OKI-KUN AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BAND ARE SPECIAL! LOOK, JUST GO INSIDE!


OH COME ON, DON'T BE SO ANGRY, WE WERE O--NLY A LITTLE LATE! AND ANYWAY, IT'S SO STRANGE, ETSUSHI NOT KNOWING THAT A PERSON YOU'RE CLOSE TO IS SUPER FAMOUS.
I THOUGHT THAT MOST STUDENTS AT OUR SCHOOL KNEW, I COULDN'T BELIE--VE THAT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW, ETSUSHI-KUN.


WUA
GH
YA A AA H
FOR AN AMATEUR NO, EVEN BEFORE THAT, A STUDENT BAND TO BE ABLE TO DRAW THIS MANY PEOPLE FOR A LIVE?
.....W-WHAT THE?! THERE'S S-SO...SO MANY PEOPLE!!
OVER THERE, ETSUSHI-KUN! LOOK THERE, IT'S OKI-KUN!
Er.....?
GUITARIST, THE GUITARIST! ON THE RIGHT SIDE, IT'S OKI-KUN!

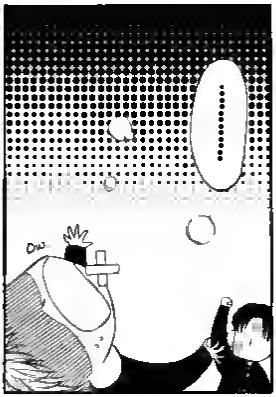

.....NO WAY
OKI, YOU


Hey, you over there. You're being too loud.
Whaaaa—— I CAN'T STOP SHIVERING! I'M SO EXCITED!
MORE THAN JUST BEING REALLY GOOD AT THE GUITAR, HE WAS WAY TOO COOL!!
Uwaaaaah WHAT SHOULD I DO? MAYBE I SHOULD CALL OKI AND TELL HIM WHAT I THOUGHT? BUT I KIND OF WANT TO TELL HIM IN PERSON.
...WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO JUST LET IT GO?
I MEAN, ETSUSHI, YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT SIDE OF OKI-KUN, WHICH IS WHY YOU FELT FINE CHATTING WITH HIM SO FREELY BUT
SINCE YOU'VE NOW SEEN WHO HE REALLY IS, DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD REFLECT ON HOW YOU INTERACT WITH OKI-KUN?


EVEN THOUGH THEY ATTEND SCHOOL AND GO TO OTHER PLACES, THEY WILL HANG OUT MOSTLY WITH OTHER BANDS AND PEOPLE AROUND THEM WILL VIEW THEM AS OF A "DIFFERENT WORLD" THAT ONLY PERFORMERS CAN BE A PART OF
I THOUGHT THAT YOU'D GET IT AFTER WATCHING THE LIVE BUT THOSE PEOPLE ARE SO GOOD THAT THEY MIGHT ONE DAY BE SCOUTED.
...eh?
AND ETSUSHI YOU DIDN'T KNOW SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT YOU FELT COMFORTABLE WITH HAPPILY CHATTING WITH HIM BUT
IT'S A WONDER THAT YOU BECAME SUCH GOOD FRIENDS WITH OKI-KUN, ETSUSHI, EVEN IF YOU DO SIT NEXT TO HIM, BUT I HOPE YOU REMEMBER TODAY'S PERFORMANCE


YO— ETSUSHI, YOU DIDN'T KNOW OKI WAS IN A BA—ND?
OKI-KUN— MUST HAVE BEEN ENDURING A LOT WHEN TALKING WITH YOU, ETSUSHI


SHUT IT! SINCE MORNING ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GIVING ME FLACK FOR THAT! I GET IT ALREADY!


!!!
DM


"FROM NOW ON YOU SHOULD PROBABLY WATCH HOW YOU INTERACT WITH HIM."
"I GET IT NOW SO IT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU COULD STAND BEING NEAR HIM."
"WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW, ETSUSHI?"


KASAI
Shit
THAT KIND OF I NEVER THOUGHT


"THAT GUY OK! WHEN YOU GUYS WERE HANGING OUT TOGETHER, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY TOUGH FOR HIM TO FIND SOMETHING YOU GUYS HAD IN COMMON."
"IT'D PROBABLY BE BEST TO NOT PESTER HIM TOO OFTEN WITH THINGS THAT AREN'T ABOUT MUSIC."


YOU DON'T SEEM WELL ... YOU ALRIGHT?
WHAT'S WRONG? FEELING SICK?
.....
THOUGH IT RAINED ON SUNDAY DID YOU STILL GO BASS FISHING?
PIGU
ED
—— HEY KASAI
.....
IF YOU SAY SO
CLUTCH
.....AH, IT'S NOTHING, I'M FINE.....


OH GEEZ ABOUT THA--T, LISTEN TO ME PLE--------ASE!!
WHITE DAY
YOU KNOW, I ENDED UP FISHING FOR FOUR HOURS STRAIGHT, AND I REALLY WANTED A NEW LURE, BUT SINCE IT'S GOING TO BE MY MOM'S BIRTHDAY SOON, I ENDED UP GETTING HER A TUBE OF LIPSTICK INSTE--AD!
But the winter's always hot
SO, SINCE THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO, I JUST WENT TO THE NEARBY FISHING CENTER. AH, A FISHING CENTER'S A HUGE INDOOR FISHING RESERVE WHERE YOU CAN ALSO FISH' ALSO--, DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF AND THE NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH, YOU EARN POINTS THAT YOU CAN SAVE UP, AND SORT OF LIKE AT A PACHINKO PARLOR, YOU CAN THEN TRADE IN YOUR POINTS FOR PRIZES
MY OLD MAN, YOU KNO--W, HE SAID HE'D DRIVE ME SO I WAS RE--ALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, BUT WHEN THE DAY CAME, THAT SHITTY OLD MAN' GET THIS, HE TOLD ME, "IT'S RAINING SO FORGET IT!"
ACK!!


I MEAN IT JUST ISN'T THE SAME AS REALLY GETTING OUT THERE IN NATURE AND FISHING RIGHT?
But maybe I should tell you a few lies as a present.
I DON'T GET HOW YOU CAN STAND FISHING IN A CENTER, OR WHY ANYONE WOULD SET UP PRIZES FOR FISHING.
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
HE'S REACTING THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
.....
WAIT, IS THIS IT? I'M FINE WITH THINGS BEING THIS WAY
SO I COULDN'T SEE IT HOW EVERYONE ELSE DOES, WHY PEOPLE AROUND US THINK THAT OKI'S FORCING HIMSELF TO TALK WITH ME.


I THOUGHT HE WAS ENJOYING IT.....
AS MUCH AS I WAS.
AAH, BUT MAYBE THIS IS MY CHANCE
..RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN FEELING WEIRD...


lub-dub
lub-dub
lub-dub
REALLY,
REALLY
WEIRD.
flustered
———ING SHIT,
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHEN
I'M
NEAR
HIM...
IT HURTS TO
BREATHE...


ETSUSHI, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TALKING MUCH WITH OKI-KUN LATELY, huh?
you guys... why are you coming here again...
Oh, Etsushi's so popular with the ladies♥
I'm not up to arguing in a session we're already going to!
Let's cool and be happy, suggested?
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT SO OF COURSE WE DON'T TALK!
I MEAN, I DON'T GET MUSIC THAT WELL AND I'VE NEVER WANTED HIM TO TROUBLE HIMSELF WITH LISTENING TO MY STORIES!
How ruthless.
WHAT THE?!
YOU KNOW, SORT OF ANNO—YED AND ASSRAVATED, AND IT'S KIND OF INTIMIDATING
OKI-KUN SEEMED TO BE IN A PRETTY BAD MOOD LATELY
THEN AS EXPE—CTED,
IT'S ETSUSHI WHO IS THE SHUNNER


SINCE YOU'RE THE ROOT OF IT ALL, HURRY UP AND PATCH THINGS UP WITH HIM
WHY, YOU, TWO~~~ AREN'T YOU CONTRADICTING WHAT YOU SAID BEFO~RE?!
WE'RE GIRLS SO WE CAN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND MALE FRIENDSHIP.
It's a little irritating to me that Kaoru went first, you know...
It's a fragile bond that can't be severed by anything, a solid friendship that can't be matched by us.
Kya♡
.....fuck off.
.....
WHY IS IT MY FAULT THAT HE'S IN A FOUL MOOD?!


...eh?
PROBABLY OKI'S...
It felt nervy and casual so that must mean it's
—SO YOU DON'T WANT TO RETURN MISPLACED ITEMS TO THE ORIGINAL OWNER?
Uh...
WELL THEN...


I DID
DO SOMETHING TO YOU?


Y-...YOU DIDN'T!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING! WHAT S WITH THAT!
Swaps back
...gh
...AAARGH, SHIT! I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!
OKI'S... REALIZED THAT I'VE BEEN AVOIDING HIM
I MEAN, THAT'S A GIVEN SINCE I STOPPED TALKING TO HIM RIGHT OUT OF THE BLUE
And well, anybody would get hicked off...
OKI DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, BUT
IT S SOMEHOW PAINFUL...


BUT STILL——
WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT HOW HE WAS FORCING HIMSELF TO BE INTERESTED WHEN WE WERE TALKING,
EVEN NOW, I'M ASHAMED OF HOW TACTLESS I WAS TO NOT HAVE REALIZED
WH- WHY IS,
WHY IS MY HEART BEATING SO FAST——?!
Might not be Reiji——
Um——
Um——


Huh? Oh, uh, well to be more precise, Takigawa agreed to change seats with me
What? You're switching desks?
Aw cra—p, if I can't erase these desk doodles, Takigawa might get pissed.
But I have to switch desks, no matter what...
1-5
Eh?


BA
hurts
TH-THAT'S NOT..
I-I ONLY THOUGHT THAT IT'D BE NICE TO SIT BY THE WINDOW AND TAKIGAWA'S SEAT IS IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM SO I....
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!!
IF THAT WERE THE TRUTH, YOU'D HAVE SWITCHED LONG AGO!!
NOW.. TO DO IT NOW, WHAT OTHER REASON COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE OTHER THAN TO AVOID ME?!
TO GO SO FAR AS TO CHANGE SEATS, WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING?!
DO YOU DETEST ME THAT MUCH?! IF SO THEN AT LEAST TELL ME WHY!!


TELL ME WHY! IF YOU'D JUST TELL ME WHY, THEN FROM NOW ON I'D LEAVE YOU ALONE!
!
...DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH ME ANYMORE...
IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO TALK TO ME, ISN'T IT? SO THIS IS JUST PERFECTLY IDEAL, ISN'T IT?!
AND I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO TACTLESS!
ALL THIS TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU WERE IN A BAND AND WERE REALLY WELL-KNOWN...
YET EVEN IF I HAD KNOWN, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT MUSIC.
CRAP, THIS ISN'T GOOD...
EVEN THOUGH YOU WEREN'T REALLY COMFORTABLE WITH TALKING WITH ME, YOU TRIED YOUR BEST. DIDN'T YOU? I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE ANYTHING WAS WRONG. BUT EVERYONE ELSE DID!
I REALLY...AM VERY TACTLESS. BUT...I UNDERSTAND IT NOW SO THAT'S WHY...WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF OUR SEATS WEREN'T SO NEAR EACH OTHER?


I FEEL LIKE CRYING.....
I ALSO DON'T WANT TO CONTINUE PRESSURING YOU INTO TALKING WITH ME SO—
WHAT THE HELL'S WITH THAT?!
DON'T JUST DECIDE ON YOUR OWN TO CUT ME OFF SIMPLY BECAUSE OF A MISUNDERSTANDING!
WHA-.....! BUT EVERYONE SAYS YOU'RE.....
WHEN I WAS WITH YOU, KASAI, I NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OR SAID THAT I WAS UNINTERESTED! YOU IDIOT!


[di-
?!
Him this guy!
..DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU
THAT OTHER PEOPLE DON'T KNOW MY FEELINGS?!
DON'T TOSS ME ASIDE OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT!


KNOCK
Waaah!!
.....NO
NO!!
IT'S NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF OTHER PEOPLE!!
IT'S NOT ONLY THAT! I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM YOU.....! I W-, I W-.....-gh


.....
.....KASAI
CLOSE YOUR EYES
SINCE YOU TRIED TO AVOID ME AND TOSS ME ASIDE BECAUSE OF A MISUNDERSTANDING
DON'T GET MAD AT ME FOR WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO


...ngh?!
mmm~~~!!
——gh


.....O...Ki...
.....WHEN YOU WERE AVOIDING ME, I.....
——THIS, THIS ISN'T GOOD.....


WITH THIS,
WE SERIOUSLY
I FELT
LIKE MY HEART
HAD STOPPED
BEATING
CAN'T GO BACK
TO BEING FRIENDS——

END


WE-.. WELL... JUST FOR NOW IF NOTHING ELSE COMES UP ..I GUESS?
.....ARE YOU THINKING OF COMING, KASAI?
H-, HEY, UH, WHEN'S YOUR NEXT LIVE SHOW?
OK!
.....HAVE WE FINALLY MADE SOME PROGRESS?
.....SEEMS THERE'S STILL A WAYS TO GO.....
!


愛に気づけよ
Notice My Love


OH, DON'T EVEN START WITH THAT AGAIN, MOM!
JUST, FOR NOW, DON'T TELL HIM WHERE MY APARTMENT OR WHAT MY CELL NUMBER IS
SHOUJI!! STOP MESSING AROUND!!
HOSHINA-KUN HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU THIS ENTIRE TIME!
HAH! THIS AGAIN?! WHY, IT WAS JUST LIKE YESTERDAY YOU GUYS WERE THE BEST OF FRIENDS, YET NOW THAT YOU'RE A UNIVERSITY STUDENT, YOU'VE SUDDENLY KICKED HOSHINA-KUN TO THE CURB..... THE POOR BOY, DON'T YOU HAVE EVEN A SHRED OF HUMANITY!
....REALLY, REALLY IRRITATING
SHUT IT, YOU UNGRATEFUL WRETCH OF BORROWED DNA! YOU MAY BE LIVING ALONE NOW, BUT YOU BETTER COME BACK AND PAY YOUR RESPECTS!
YOU MIGHT BE FINE WITH THIS BUT HOSHINA-KUN IS PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY EXAMS! I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO OR HOW FAR YOU GO BUT YOU BETTER HELP HIM OUT PROPERLY AS HIS SENPAI!
KA-CLONK☆


——THAT'S RIGHT,
HE'LL BE TAKING THE EXAMS SOON
.....
HONESTLY, WHAT IS HE DOING?
HE SHOULD JUST FORGET ABOUT ME AND GO STUDY OR COMMIT HIMSELF TO THE CLUB OR WHATEVER!
I REALLY, TRULY DO NOT WANT TO MEET WITH HIM AGAIN
HE—Y YOSHIHARA, OVER HE—RE
"!!"
Ah, SORRY, TODAY I'LL BE SITTING HERE


I NEED TO STUDY FOR FRENCH SO I'LL BE IN THE BACK.


SCRAPES
YO, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
SEEMS YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME AFTER ALL, SHOUJI-SENPAI
...HOSHINA
libertà


COME O~~~~N, HOW COULD YOU BE SO COLD, SENPAI? YOU JUST UP AND LEFT AFTER GRADUATION, WITHOUT EVEN GIVING ME A CALL
YOU CHANGED YOUR CELL NUMBER, TOO, DIDN'T YOU. EVEN YOUR MOM WOULDN'T TELL ME WHERE YOU'D GONE....
...WAS IT ALL SO
YOU COULD CUT TIES WITH ME?
I'LL BEGIN TODAY'S LECTURE NOW.
TODAY WE WILL BE GOING OVER ARTICLE 9 OF THE JAPANESE CONSTITUTION——


liberta
.....HEY! GET OUT OF HERE HOSHINA!
W-..W-WELL THEN HOW'D YOU KNOW WHICH CLASS I WAS TAKING?!!
IS I-F, SENPAI, TODAY'S A HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL'S ESTABLISHME--NT
HOSHINA!!
WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?! TODAY'S A SCHOOLDAY!
BY THE POWER OF LOVE♡
liberta


HE
WAS ONLY A KOUHAI OF OUR CLUB,
BUT EVEN THOUGH
AND THOUGH I SORT OF GOT ALONG WITH HIM, MORE SO THAN WITH THE OTHER GUYS, I DIDN'T SEE HIM AS ANYTHING BUT A KOUHAI
"SENPAI"
THAT WAS WHAT I HAD THOUGHT
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU DIDN'T EVER WANT TO MEET WITH ME AGAIN, FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES...
AFTER ALL, SENPAI...
KNOWING HIM, HE PROBABLY DID SOMETHING DEVIOUSLY CUNNING TO GET THAT INFO
Only thing he has to his name!
Shuko
AND SO NOW, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO EVADE ME~~


WHEN WE WERE DRUNK, WE SENSELESSLY—
AND THROUGH SUCH A WRETCHED INCIDENT,
I REALIZED MY FEELINGS FOR HOSHINA
WHY
BUT HE—
SENPAI!
DID YOU SHUN ME?!


DID I
DO OR SAY SOMETHING YOU HATED?!
IF SO, THEN TELL ME! I WANT TO PROPERLY APOLOGIZE! I CAN'T STAND HOW THINGS ARE ANY MORE!


IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, TELL ME WHY! IF YOU HATE ME.....HO, EVEN SO, PLEASE TELL ME FACE-TO-FACE, SENPAI!
I.... COULD NEVER HATE YOU
.....
.. IT'S IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
SINCE I.. SINCE I ENTERED UNIVERSITY I HAD TO DEAL WITH A LOT OF THINGS ... I DIDN'T HAVE ANY TIME ...


...I HOPE HE NEVER CATCHES ON TO MY LIE.
BELIEVE ME I WOULD HAVE CALLED YOU IF I COULD
BUT NOW SINCE I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN USED TO BEING A UNIVERSITY STUDENT...
libertà
I JUST DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO CALL YOU


WEEPS
THIS SATURDAY... WANT TO HANG OUT?


TO HAVE AVOIDED HIM FOR SO LONG, ONLY TO GIVE IN SO EASILY.
I'M HOPELESS...
I WAS SO LONELY~~~ SENPAI~~~
WHUMP!!
UWA~~~HE!
FROM HERE ON
I'LL JUST HAVE TO ENDURE THIS THE BEST I CAN
.....HEY, SENPAI
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH GUYS, DIDN'T IT FEEL GOOD?
I KNOW WE DID IT ONLY BECAUSE WE WERE DRUNK, BUT
IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU SENPAI I'D.....I'D LIKE TO CARRY ON A RELATIONSHIP LIKE THIS


WE CAN JUST HANG OUT LIKE WE'VE ALWAYS DONE BUT SORT OF AS FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS!
AND SINCE WE'RE BOTH GUYS OUR FRIENDSHIP WON'T FADE! I'M ASKING ONLY BECAUSE IT FELT RE~ALLY GOOD.
IT'S FINE AS LONG AS IT'S NOT A "RELATIONSHIP" RELATIONSHIP... RIGHT?
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I'M PAYING THE PRICE...
AND AT THE TIME I REALLY THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE FINE... BUT NOW
BECAUSE I LOVED HIM. EVEN A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP WAS FINE.
...I GUESS IT'S... FINE.


Ah, YOSHIHARA!
AS LONG AS IT'S NOT A "RELATIONSHIP" RELATIONSHIP HUH
AND SO I HELPED ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH I COULDN'T EVEN TELL HIM MY TRUE FEELINGS——
HOW AWESOME! TO MEET UNEXPECTEDLY OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL!
I GUESS SO. ...WAIT, YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
12


SHOUJI!
wh-... what's wrong?
HE'S A REALLY GREAT GUY. YOU KNOW SO YOU'D BETTER HOLD ONTO HIM.
Ah——!
SORRY
DID YOU WAIT LONG?
12
WHY DID HE
ba-thump
SUDDENLY CALL ME BY ONLY MY NAME...?
Uh, no, not really...
-thump
ba-thump


I SAID HEY!!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?! HEY, HOSHINA!
UH, YEAH, A KOUHAI FROM MY CLUB....
OH, WHAT? YOU WERE WAITING FOR SOMEONE? A FRIEND OF YOUR'S SINCE HIGH SCHOOL?
HUH....
SHOUJI! THE MOVIE'S ABOUT TO BEGIN!
NKS


....SENPAI, THAT PERSON IS A FRIEND OF YOUR'S FROM UNIVERSITY, RIGHT?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
FREEZES
?
WHAT THE HECK IS UP WITH YOU! SUDDENLY CALLING OUT TO ME SANS SUFFIX AND SUCH.
12


..DON'T INTRODUCE ME AS YOUR KOUHAI
WHY?
I MEAN, A KOUHAI IS A KOUHAI, AFTER ALL..
Come on, quit it already!
ALRIGHT, I WON'T SAY IT ANYMORE
I GUESS YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LOOKED DOWN UPON, huh


YOU DON'T WANT TO FEEL EMBARRASSED FOR BEING A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
EHH
PERSONALLY I DON'T THINK IT REALLY MATTERS SINCE THERE'S NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY
EHK
KYAAA
OH BUT, SINCE YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT SUCH A THING, I GUESS THAT MAKES YOU NO BETTER THAN A BRAT.
YEAH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, I'M A CRUEL GUY
Come on, the movie really is about to start!
You're too cruel! Senpai!
Aren't I a really lovable guy, too?


4
WHEN I'M WITH HOSHINA LIKE THIS,
I ALWAYS END UP ENJOYING MYSELF.
IT'S NO USE
I GET SO HAPPY JUST BEING AROUND HIM
AND THOUGH I HAD RESIGNED MYSELF TO GIVE UP ON HOSHIN...
AN ORDINARY...
SENPAI AND KOUHAI FRIENDSHIP.
JUST A REGULAR
EVEN IF I COULD TREAT HIM NOW AS I WOULD ANY OTHER ORDINARY FRIEND...
LIKE HOW IT IS RIGHT NOW


SNAPS BACK
...ah
SHIT.....!

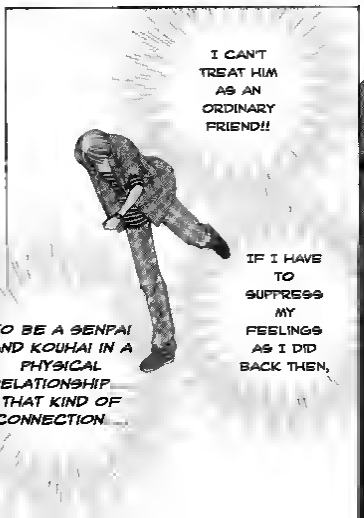

.....
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE ALREADY KISSED SO MANY TIMES
I FUCKED UP !
HOSHINA WILL DEFINITELY SUSPECT SOMETHING IS STRANGE !
.....


IS THERE ANY PLACE YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO?
.....
.. UMM .. WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?
.....
LET'S GO
TO YOUR APARTMENT, SENPAI
I WANT TO VISIT YOUR NEW PLACE


DON'T WE HAVE A LOT OF THINGS WE NEED TO DISCUSS, ALONE?
SINCE WE DIDN'T MEET UP AT ALL UNTIL NOW... LET'S GO.
lub-dub
.....eh?
...I.....umm... I HAVEN'T CLEANED MY APARTMENT IN A WHILE.....
ba-thump
ba-thump
...THE TWO OF US...
THIS CAN'T HAPPEN...
NO, I ..I, uhh, I.....!!
OH COME ON, DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT MATTERS TO ME?


I... HAVE A REPORT!
YEAH, I'VE A REPORT DUE SOON! SO.. I'M GOING HOME!


SENPAI!!!


I CAN'T TREAT HIM AS AN ORDINARY FRIEND!!
IF I HAVE TO SUPPRESS MY FEELINGS AS I DID BACK THEN,
TO BE A SENPAI AND KOUHAI IN A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP... THAT KIND OF CONNECTION...


I DON'T WANT THIS————...!!


.....ISN'T IT BECAUSE I COULDN'T HANDLE THAT KIND OF CONNECTION THAT I BROKE AWAY IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING.....!!
...LOOK, I ALREADY SAID I'LL BE RETURNING TOMORROW AND I'M BRINGING CLOTHES FOR A DAY! HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU, MOM!
LUNCH? U--H...NO, THERE'S NO NEED, I'LL BE FINE.
I NEVER KNEW THAT NOT BEING ABLE TO CONVEY MY FEELINGS WOULD BRING ME SUCH DISTRESS.....
WHAT NOW? WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO TALK ABOUT?! ...HUH?!


IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THAT DAY.....
BOOP
.. I'VE MET UP WITH HOSHINA
Ah, YEAH, WE... WE HAD A PROPER TALK
I HAVEN'T TRIED TO CONTACT HIM
AND NOTHING'S COME FROM HOSHINA'S END, EITHER.
This Oh, Well!
WHAT NOW?! DIDN'T WE ALREADY.....
IF, LIKE THIS WE CAN PART ONCE AND FOR ALL
!!
.....SENPAI.


SENPAI, YOU KNOW, I...
I'VE DONE A LOT OF THINKING THIS PAST WEEK,
I WENT TOO FAR,
AND I'M SORRY
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS SIMPLY AIMING FOR YOUR BODY, SEMPAI
...BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN SO PLEASE,
LET'S GO BACK TO BEING JUST REGULAR... FRIENDS AND HANG OUT LIKE WE DID BEFORE.
...THAT'S
SO YOU COULDN'T FIND A WAY TO REJECT ME, RIGHT? THAT TIME WHEN I... PESTERED YOU
AND SEE, YOU'RE A REALLY GENTLE AND GOOD-NATURED PERSON, SENPAI
I FORGOT TO FIRST CHECK WHO WAS CALLING
I'm sure it was...
...was!
Asahina Yasunori
090222


IMPOSSIBLE !!
...I WANT TO END THIS
...I GUESSED AS MUCH.
HAVE YOU COME TO HATE ME?
...IF I WERE TO TELL HIM NOW
I'LL ALSO I'LL ALSO COME CLEAN !!!
...IT'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE
IT'S... IT'S BECAUSE I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU...!


BEEP
SORRY HOSHINA, I'LL CALL BACK LATER!
SO THAT'S WHY.....
DINGDONG
WH-... WHAT THE HELL?!
DINGDONG
DINGDONG
DINGDONG
DINGDONG
DINGDONG
DINGDONG
KER-CHAK
OW!
.....IF THAT'S TRUE,
THEN ISN'T IT FINE NOT TO END THIS?!
!


PLEASE DON'T END THIS!
IF YOU LOVE ME THEN PLEASE DON'T END THIS!!
BECAUSE I FOLLOWED YOU HOME, LIKE A STALKER! I CHASED AFTER YOU THAT DAY WHEN YOU RAN AWAY FROM ME!
..HO-..HOSHINA?!
WHAT... ...HOW... WHY DO YOU KNOW WHERE I LIVE...?!
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, TOO.....!!
I COULDN'T TELL YOU! I..WAS AFRAID..EVEN THOUGH I LOVED YOU..... I WAS AFRAID.. ...!
SH ?


I THOUGHT THAT IF IT WAS JUST A CASUAL RELATIONSHIP, NO STRINGS ATTACHED, MAYBE SENPAI WOULDN'T FEEL BURDENED AND WE COULD STILL SPEND TIME TOGETHER... OR SO I THOUGHT.
BUT BECAUSE I STILL WANTED TO BE WITH YOU...
...IF SENPAI HAD REJECTED ME, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RECOVER...
.....
BUT INSTEAD, SENPAI PULLED AWAY
YOU'RE TOO CRUEL, SENPAI


I NEVER KNEW THAT CONVEYING MY FEELINGS
...YOU SHOULD'VE JUST TOLD ME THAT FROM THE START
Exhaled breath
LET YOUR MORE MATURE SENPAI GUIDE YOU IN SUCH MATTERS
EVEN THOUGH I SAID NOT TO TREAT ME AS SOMEONE YOUNGER...
WOULD BRING ME SUCH HAPPINESS———.
END


HOSHINA
Let go. I can't write my report like this
.....


..WELL THEN


Go home and study! Stupid exam student! If you fail to get into a university, I'm barring you from my apartment!
Just because you're on summer break doesn't mean you can laze about in my apartment!
EH UM!?


..WHAT HAVE I DONE
I'LL DO MY BEST, SENPAI
TIGHTENS
WINDSURFING
IF I PASS MY EXAMS, WILL YOU LET ME MOVE IN WITH YOU?
YEAH YEAH, IF YOU PASS, I'LL LET YOU DO WHATEVER ..


想い
花のその名を呼べ
That Is the Name of the Flower You Cherish


I ...LIKE
LIKE
HE HALTINGLY, LABORIOUSLY STRUNG TOGETHER THE JAPANESE WORDS, AND IT TOOK SOME TIME TO DAWN ON ME THAT HE HAD JUST CONFESSED.
WITH A HEAVY BLUSH THAT TINTED EVEN HIS EARS A DEEP RED,
WHEN I FINALLY REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED,
MY FIRST LOVE WAS FLAWLESSLY CRUSHED.


MINORI-BOCCHAN!
DO PICK UP THE PACE! EVERYBODY IS PATIENTLY AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL!
I UN-UNDERSTAND ALREADY! ISN'T TH-..THAT WHY I'M RUNNING .. AS I AM?!
PAPA ALPE~~~ADY SAID BEFORE I LE~ LEFT THAT IF HIS GUESTS CAME I HAD TO ATTE~~~ND
PL~..PLEASE FORGIVE MY TARDINE~~SS
YOU'RE RIDICULOUSLY LATE!! HOW F/R COULD YOU HAVE POSSIBLY GONE?! ANYHOW, QUICKLY TAKE YOUR SEAT!
BOCCHAN! YOU MUST MAKE MORE TIME FOR EXERCISE!
TONE YO~ YOU'VE RAN A GREATER DISTANCE THAN I WHERE DO YOU FIND THE ENERGY ..
72-years-old Rin around looking For Minori and is still running
THUMP
ZZZ


WE'VE ALREADY FINISHED THE INTRODUCTIONS BUT YOU REMEMBER THESE FOLKS DON'T YOU MINORI?
MR. AND MRS. SIMMONS AND THEIR SON JULIAN-KUN USED TO LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
MINORI DO YOU REMEMBER PLAYING WITH JULIAN-KUN?
THEY WENT BACK TO THE U.S. FOR SOME YEARS. BUT THIS TIME AROUND MR. SIMMONS WILL BE LECTURING AT THE UNIVERSITY AND HAS AGAIN BROUGHT HIS FAMILY TO LIVE WITH HIM HERE IN JAPAN.
——AH……


MINORI
WE'LL BE DRINKING PLENTY TONIGHT, BURT!
MOVING O—N! DINNER IS WAITING SO LET US SWITCH TO THE OTHER ROOM!
IT'S JULIAN
WHAT IS IT, JULIAN?
WELL
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, KENZOU
MINORI YOU ...
ARE MALE... YES?
Heh?
Ah, YES, I AM.


?
...PLEASE EXCUSE MY RUDENESS, I WAS MISTAKEN
?
JULIAN... DO YOU REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT THE PAST?
I CERTAINLY DO! WE PLAYED TOGETHER QUITE OFTEN, JULIAN!
OH, BUT OF COURSE, IT WASN'T JUST ME. WE PLAYED WITH ALL THE KIDS WHO LIVED IN THE AREA! YOU WERE A REALLY POPULAR CHILD
I DO REMEMBER PLAYING WITH MANY PEOPLE, BUT WHEN I WAS A CHILD MY JAPANESE WAS NOT VERY GOOD
SO FORGIVE ME. I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH OF THE PAST


IS THAT SO...
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER...
SO I CAN'T RECALL ANY NAMES.
ALSO, I COULDN'T REALLY DISTINGUISH ONE JAPANESE PERSON FROM THE NEXT SO I'M AFRAID I DON'T REMEMBER YOU, MINORI. MY APOLOGIES.
I NEVER COULD FORGET, BUT I SEE
WHEREAS I I NEVER
I DO, HOWEVER, REMEMBER ONE PERSON.
THE PERSON I LOVE


EVEN NOW I LOVE HER
I HOPE....WE MEET AGAIN SOON.
O—Y! MINORI, JULIAN-KUN! WHAT ARE YOU TWO STILL DO—ING?
MINORI, WE SHOULD HURRY
THE ONE
WHOM JULIAN LOVES


JULIAN HAS RETURNED——?!
Ahh!! THE BOY OF YOUR FIRST LOVE!!
Waaa——h!! DON'T SAY IT IN SUCH A LOUD VO—ICE
ISN'T IT FINE? NO ONE'S AROUND TO HEAR IN THE FIRST PLACE
I THINK LADIES SHOULD BE MORE MODEST AND REFINED, AYAME-CHAN
HOWEVER DO YOU MEAN? IF IN THE END I HAVE NO SUITORS I'LL JUST MARRY MINORI
Hmm
.....AND NOT TAKASHI NII-SAN?
I find Ayame-chan more charming when she's like this.
Mo——!! What a horrid child!! I'm offended!!
Mou——


DUE TO HIS LACK OF EXPERIENCE WITH SPEAKING JAPANESE, JULIAN TOLD ONLY ME.
ONLY I KNOW
I'M GOING ALREADY PLEASE TRY!
I THOUGHT AT FIRST THAT HE WAS PROFESSING HIS LOVE FOR ME
I... LIKE
LIKE
THAT AYAME-CHAN IS JULIAN'S FIRST LOVE
BUT WHILE I, BEING MALE, WONDERED WHETHER OR NOT I COULD GROW TO LOVE JULIAN, I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT,
AT THE TIME,
I WAS HOLDING SOME IRIS SANGUINEA, OR "AYAME" FLOWERS


ALTHOUGH HE WAS TRYING HIS HARDEST TO COMMUNICATE HIS FEELINGS,
I NEVER ONCE TOLD AYAME-CHAN
LIKE!
LIKE! I LIKE...!
——WELL? HOW WAS YOUR REUNION?
BECAUSE I
I'VE NEVER HEARD ANY GOOD STORIES ABOUT SUCH THINGS,
I TAKE IT THAT YOU STILL LIKE HIM?
Eh?
AND THOUGH JULIAN WAS YOUR FIRST LOVE YOU KNOW NOT MUCH WILL YIELD FROM A HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP
BUT MINORI, HAVE YOU TRULY LIKED HIM ALL THIS TIME?
!!


HOW IS IT, I WONDER, HAVING ONLY RECENTLY MET AGAIN,
THAT MESMERIZING MAN STILL HOLDS SWAY OVER MINORI'S LOVE?
!
JULIAN!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY ALL THESE BOOKS?


I'M DELIVERING THE BOOKS MY FATHER HAD REQUESTED BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE ARE QUITE A FEW
O~H, THOUGH IT WOULD'VE PROBABLY BEEN BETTER TO HAVE HAD THEM DELIVERED BY POST! HERE, I'LL HELP YOU CARRY HALF!


I'll take this many, Julian, since you also have books in your bag.
NOW THEN! LET'S GO!
.....
unfazed
Ah~ BUT....
FLICKS
FLICKS


...MINOR! REALLY IS MALE,
IT'S A BIT SADDENING
He said as much when we met again...
YOU EVEN HAVE AN EQUALLY KIND HEART...
AS WHOM?
Well, no matter.
I HOPE TO
SOON MEET AGAIN WITH THE ONE I LOVE
!
MEET WITH AYAME-CHAN
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF WOMAN SHE'S BECOME?


HAS CHANGED WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
.....
IF THAT PERSON
I WOULD BE FINE
IF THEY HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER PERSON WHAT THEN?
BECAUSE I LOVE THEM,
I WOULD BE FINE


WHAT A FOOLISH THING
MINORI! LET'S GO TO THE SWEETS SHOP! I'LL TREAT YOU, AS AN EXPRESSION OF MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR HELP
FOR ME TO HAVE ASKED
I LOVE IT♪
YOU DO SO LOVE ANKO, JULIAN


MY MEMORIES NEVER FADED, NOT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST.
WOW! YOU'RE AMAZING MINORI! YOU EVEN REMEMBERED MY PREFERENCES—
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
...I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU, JULIAN.
EVEN IF YOU HAD CHANGED
I DOUBT I COULD HAVE EXTINGUISHED THESE FEELINGS
Eh?!
A STRESS-INDUCED FEVER?!
JULIAN?!


breathes—
I'M DREADFULLY SORRY YOU EVEN TROUBLED YOURSELF TO SEE HOW HE IS DOING,
BUT HE FELL ASLEEP NOT TOO LONG AGO
DO MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME WHILE I BRING SOME TEA ALONG
EK?! OH PLEASE DON'T TROUBLE YOURSE-
SHIIS
THOUGH WE LIVED HERE ONCE UPON A TIME, IT SEEMS HE WAS ULTIMATELY OVERWHELMED BY THE UNFAMILIAR ENVIRONS
BUT THE DOCTOR EXPLAINED THAT HE WILL RECOVER WITH A BIT OF REST SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY


I'LL CHANGE THE TOWEL.
NO MATTER HOW LONG A PERSON MIGHT HAVE LIVED IN JAPAN IN THE PAST, THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SETTLE BACK IMMEDIATELY INTO THIS SORT OF LIFESTYLE
EXHAUSTION, I SEE
THAT'S RIGHT
brushes
GRAB
SORRY, DID I WAKE YOU?!
Eh? Eh, sh...


you
love
I I- love you
I'm so so happy to be able to
to meet you again so happy


FORGIVE ME
love you
I'M A VILE PERSON!
A SHAMELESS PERSON!
wrathful
EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS OF YOUR FEELINGS,
EVEN THOUGH I COULD HAVE GRANTED YOUR WISH ANY TIME,
I COULDN— MY EGO WOULDN'T.....


Aah! YOU'VE FINALLY AWOKEN!
NOW, JULIAN, PLEASE DO LET GO OF MINORI-SAN'S HAND!
Ha
MY COWARDICE !
MY MY~~~, BECAUSE YOU CLUNG TO MINORI-SAN'S WRIST AND WOULDN'T WAKE UP
MINORI-SAN HAS BEEN HERE FOR NEARLY SIX HOURS
Here?
For six hours?
I'LL GO AND CONTACT MINORI-SAN'S FAMILY
THEY'VE SURELY BEEN FRETTING OVER MINORI-SAN'S ABSENCE AND WORRYING ABOUT YOUR HEALTH


IF THIS HELPS YOU TO FEEL MORE AT PEACE
I DON'T MIND PLEASE DO CONTINUE TO REST
Hi
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
It would be wonderful
If Mikori was the person I loved
RELEASE
Ah! No no I'm quite alright thank you!
.....


.....IT'S NOT GOOD TO THINK SUCH THINGS.....
DON'T WORRY... I'LL TAKE YOU TO HER
I KNOW WHO YOU LOVE
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT TELLING YOU SOONER


I'LL TAKE YOU TO HER,
JULIAN
THAT PERSON OVER THERE!
THAT CHILD WITH A HAT
YAME-CHAN.


"AYAME"...?
YES
SHE'S THE PERSON YOU LOVE. SHE HAS THE SAME NAME AS THE PLANTS FLOWERING ABOUT US.
...SH, WAIT, MINORI!
WELL, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE NOW
I'VE... NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THE PERSON I LOVE
HOW IS IT THAT YOU KNOW, MINORI?
...BUT YOU DID TELL ME, JULIAN, THOUGH IT SEEMS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN.


OH, MY EYES SURELY DECEIVE ME! ARE YOU NOT JULIAN?!
O~~~H I COULD NEVER FAIL TO RECOGNIZE YOU! IT'S ME, AYAME! DO YOU REMEMBER ME?!
Hmm?
WAIT A MOMENT, WHERE'S MINORI?
DID YOU NOT COME HERE WITH THAT CHILD? JULIAN?
.....


I REMEMBER NOW—!!
Huh?
I REMEMBER NOW!
I REMEMBER YOU! YOU'RE AYAME!
AYAME! WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT GIRL YOU USED TO OFTEN PLAY WITH WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?!!
I, TOO, SPENT SOME TIME PLAYING WITH HER! BUT YOU WERE WITH HER FOR A LONGER TIME THAN I WAS! YOUR GOOD FRIEND, WHERE HAS SHE GONE?!
HAVEN'T YOU MADE SOME SORT OF MISTAKE?
Eh?!
MY GOOD FRIEND WHOM I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WITH SINCE OUR CHILDHOOD TOGETHER
IS MINORI! THE MALE MI-NO-RI!
SINCE THAT CHILD VERY MUCH RESEMBLED A GIRL IN THE PAST,
ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T MISTAKEN?
"BUT YOU DID TELL ME"
ah!


...WASN'T A GIRL...
?
...BUT THEN
I LIKE
LIKE
IF THAT'S SO, THEN WHY...?
.....
WHAT WILL BECOME OF THOSE TWO
I WONDER WHAT
THOSE TWO ARE TALKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW?


JU-JULIAN?!
ba-thump
...eh?
WHAT A STRANGE INCIDENCE!
THE FLOWER IS CALLED "AYAME." HER NAME IS ALSO "AYAME."
?
JAPANESE REALLY IS A DIFFICULT LANGUAGE, MINOR!
ahaha ahahahaha! DEAR ME—!


!!
THE NAMES OF FLOWERS ...!!
NOR, FOR THAT MATTER
WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I COULDN'T REMEMBER PEOPLE'S NAMES
BUT I WISH I HAD KNOWN SOONER
SAVE FOR ONE PERSON
I NEVER TOLD ANYBODY ELSE ABOUT THE PERSON I LOVED,
I TOLD THE PERSON HIMSELF


CURRENTLY ...IN
LOVE WITH SOMEONE?
GKI'S
IS MINORI
!!!!
ALL THIS TIME, MINORI HAS BEEN THE PERSON I LOVE.....
I WASN'T MISTAKEN AFTER ALL
.....
...J-
JULIAN
JULIAN IS THE ONE WHOM I LOVE!!


I CONSTANTLY THOUGHT OF WHAT I SHOULD DO IF MINORI LOVED SOMEONE ELSE
TRUTHFULLY, I ALWAYS FELT INSECURE
"BECAUSE I LOVE THEM, I WOULD BE FINE."
THAT WAS AN ABYSMAL LIE
...
•END•




I HAD MY HAIR CUT BECAUSE OF THE HEAT, BUT
...I GUESS TOO MUCH WAS CROPPED OFF


UGH
SO ATTRACTIVE! YOU'RE MUCH TOO ATTRACTIVE!
TH- THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
Ah WAIT, NO YOU- YOU'RE QUITE HANDSOME SO ah! UMM... em... WELL, IT SUITS YOU VERY WELL...
WONDERFUL♡ AS LONG AS MINORI LIKES IT, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS
PUNK...


その目で射抜け！
Pierce Me with Your Gaze!


I'VE SOMEHOW ENROLLED IN THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS THE ONE GUY I DID NOT WANT TO MEET, TOKUNAGA JUNPEI.
MATSUKIDA
IT MUST BE DESTINY AFTER ALL.
I'M MATSUKIDA HIDETOSHI, AND THIS SPRING——


We can make it!
AND WHY IS THAT?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?! DO YOU NOT KNOW WHO THESE TWO PEOPLE ARE?!
WITH MY YEAR, WE FINALLY HAVE A SHOT AT TAKING THE HIKARIGAOKA HIGH SCHOOL ARCHERY CLUB TO THE TOP!
YA—Y
PRESIDE—NT
THIS YEAR, WE CAN MAKE IT TO THE PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENT! IT'S PRACTICALLY WRITTEN IN THE STARS!
ON TOP OF THAT, TOKUNAGA
MATSUKIDA AND TOKUNAGA RANKED FIRST AND SECOND PLACE IN THEIR PREFECTURE WHEN THEY WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!


AND NOW THAT I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL, I'LL ALSO BE TAKING HOME THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.
YEAH YE--AH, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN STUCK IN SECOND PLACE.
WON THE KANTOU REGIONAL TOURNAMENT!
YO
A!!
SINCE I'LL BE WITH MATSUKIDA♡
ON TOP OF THAT, THE MOMENT MATSUKIDA LOOKS AT ME, MY CONCENTRATION LEVEL ASCENDS AND THE SKY'S THE LIMIT
AND THOUGH MY HEART IS BEATING IMPOSSIBLY FAST, I DON'T LOSE FOCUS.
JUST BY FEELING MATSUKIDA'S PRESENCE NEARBY, MY BODY TEMPERATURE RISES,


What the fuck are you say——ing!!
Who the hell is being penetrated, you birdbrai——n!!
I'LL DEFINITELY HIT THE CENTER OF HIS HEART
AND WHEN I PENETRATE
INTO YOUR HEART♡
SO IN OTHER WORDS
Must be difficult For you
PATS
TOKUNAGA, BECAUSE YOU LIKE MATSUKIDA IF MATSUKIDA IS NEAR, YOUR HIT RATIO RISES?
YUP♡
Don't reply so happily——!!


I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF HIM AS A RIVAL,
BUT AT OUR FINAL MIDDLE SCHOOL PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENT, HE CALLED OUT TO ME
...MA TSU-KIDA
OR SHOULD I SAY, DON'T DECLARE YOUR LOVE! ☆
ON TOP OF THAT, THIS JERK TOKUNAGA HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.
FUCKING SHI------T! WHY DID I HAVE TO GET INTO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS THIS GUY!!
I...SEEM TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY YOUR HEATED GAZE MATSUKIDA.
WHAT'S YOUR PHONE NUMBER?


WHAT THE HELL
MY BODY CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT YOU ANYMORE, MATSUKIDA!!


WHILE HE, ON THE OTHER HAND, CALMLY SHOT ALL TWENTY OF HIS ARROWS RIGHT ON TARGET,
THANKS TO THAT I ENDED UP MAKING ALL SORTS OF MISTAKES DURING THE DECISIVE TOURNAMENT ROUND
BEYOND COMPOSED


THERE WON'T BE ANY TOURNAMENTS FOR A WHILE SO WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET
BUT I'LL... I'LL ALWAYS HOLD YOU IN MY HEART MATSUKIDA.
THOUGH I COULDN'T GET YOUR NUMBER IN THE END
Over all Victor


AND THEN, HE DEALT HIS PARTING BLOW
Made a lot of mistakes but still made it to second place
FUH
MATSUKIDA DON'T QUIT ARCHERY OKAY?


I'LL BE WITH A SUKIDA
I'LL ALSO BE TAKING HOME THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
ALWAYS——
BLUSH
I'LL DEFINITELY HIT THE CENTER OF HIS HEART
TO-, TOKUNAGA IS NOTHING MORE THAN A RIVAL TO ME!!
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH TOKUNAGA'S FEELINGS!
HMPH
SHIT, SHIT! DON'T THINK ABOUT IT! DON'T THINK ABOUT IT, MATSUKIDA!
TO-, TOKUNAGA ...REALLY HAS ALWAYS LIKED


ANYONE KNOW WHERE MY GLOVE I—S? SEEMS SOMEONE PUT THEIR'S IN MY BAG BY MISTAKE
Ah! YOU NOTICED?
I SECRETLY SWAPPED YOUR'S WITH MINE—
KER-THWACK
Archery
Huh?
What the hell are you doing?!
But guys just want to have something that belongs to their beloved, you know
Don't you da——re call me "beloved"!!
...PREZZIE, ARE THOSE TWO REALLY THAT GOOD—?
...I'VE NO IDEA.


I'VE NEVER EVEN GRAZED THE TARGET
SO~ GOOD, MATSUKIDA-KUN! ALREADY WITH TWO SHOTS IN!
BAOW
WHOLE
WAH


SQUEAL
SQUEAL
I WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT POSTURE THAT I CAN'T EVEN SHOOT PROPERLY~~, AND HE EVEN GOT BOTH ARROWS ON TARGET!
AHHH~~~!, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SHOOTING STANCE~~~♡
TOKUNAGA-KUN MUST BE RANKED, DON'T YOU THINK? I WONDER WHAT LEVEL HE IS...
.....impeccably done..... Completely different from how I shoot.....
BI
NG


WHIRL


AS EXPECTED, TOKUNAGA IS REALLY GOOD. IN ALL SINCERITY, HE REALLY COULD DOMINATE AT THE NATIONAL●


WH-..... WHAT IS IT?!
ba-thump


WHA--T "NEW LIGHT"?
JUST NOW YOU SAW ME IN A NEW LIGHT, FROM WHEN WE'RE IN A MATCH, DIDN'T YOU?
IT SOMEHOW FEELS FRESH?
?
MATSUKIDA, DO I FASCINATE YOU?
CALM DOWN! CALM THE FUCK DOWN, MATSUKIDA! YOU MUSTN'T SULLY THE CEREMONIAL ARROWS WITH BLOOD! YOU REALLY MUSTN'T!

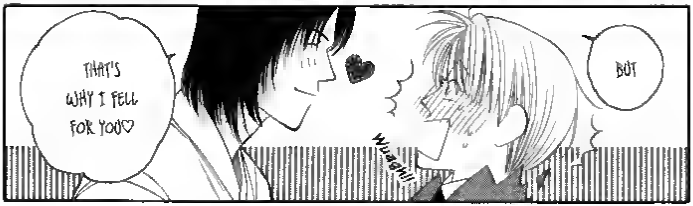

Now, how
Off you go to practice!
Huh?
MATSUKIDA-KUN
YOU'RE SO MAD THAT ALL YOUR BLOOD FLOODED YOUR HEAD? YOUR FACE IS RED YOU KNOW
Calm down, calm down
!
YE- YE-H THAT'S RIGHT! THE REASON MY FACE IS HOT IS BECAUSE I'M ANGRY
Yeah...
IT'S NOT BECAUSE WHAT HE SAID WAS THE LEAST BIT TRUE!!


HE DID SAY THAT ON SUNDAYS WE COULD COME PRACTICE ON OUR OWN AT ANY TIME, BUT
NO WAY WOULD ANYBODY COME THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING!
YA--Y♫
NOW I CAN PRACTICE AS MUCH AS I WA--NT♫
...YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME, THERE'S ALREADY SOMEONE HERE?! IT'S NOT YET EVEN 5:30
THUD
WHO COULD IT POSSIBLY BE?!
THUD.....


TH
OK


rustle...
THOK
RIGHT DOWN TO HIS FINISH
TIGHTENS
HIS MOVEMENTS FLOW SO NATURALLY
MY IDEAL STANCE
WITHOUT A DOUBT TOKUNAGA IS IMPRESSIVE
sakka hai—
!


SO IT REALLY IS YOU, MATSUKIDA! I GUESSED AS MUCH, NO I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO TURN AROUND♡
THE POWER OF YOUR GAZE IS AMAZING, MATSUKIDA!
IT STRUCK DIRECTLY AT MY HEART♡


THAT'S WHY I FELL FOR YOU♡
Mphgh!!
BUT

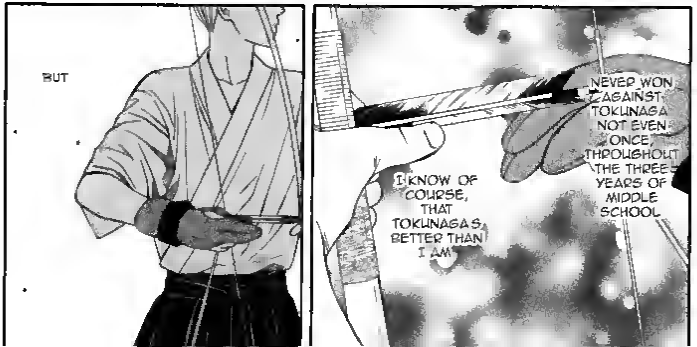

WH-...WHY YOU! YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT SINCE BEFORE, BUT.....
THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER GUYS WHO WATCH YOU, Y-...YOU KNOW! SO WHY ME.....


THERE AREN'T
NO ONE ELSE WATCHES ME AS HEATEDLY AS YOU DO, MATSUKIDA
MATSUKIDA YOUR INTENSE GAZE
WARMED ME


STOP SAYING WHATEVER THE HELL YOU WANT——!!
!
AND THAT HEAT BECAME "LOVE"♡ IT'S ONLY NATURAL, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
SI-.. SINCE IT'S LIKE THIS, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL! A MATCH! WE'LL SETTLE THIS THROUGH ARCHERY!
IF I WIN... ..
DON'T EVER.....SAY YOU LIKE ME OR OTHER WEIRD THINGS EVER AGAIN——!!


OK
WHO'S GOING FIRST?
YOU!
GOT IT?! WE'LL TAKE TURNS SHOOTING.
AND WHOEVER MISSES THEIR TARGET FIRST OR OTHERWISE WAVERS AUTOMATICALLY LOSES!
TH
OK
TIGHTENS


I....DON'T WAVER
....YOU MENTIONED IT BEFORE BUT
I HAVE


BUT
I KNOW OF COURSE, THAT TOKUNAGA'S BETTER THAN I AM
....NEVER WON AGAINST TOKUNAGA NOT EVEN ONCE THROUGHOUT THE THREE YEARS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL


WITH THE INTENT TO LOSE!
THUNK
I DIDN'T CHALLENGE HIM
TIGHTENS
breathe


THUNK
DON'T PLAN ON WAVERING, EITHER!
AND I
exhales


TOKUNAGA, LET'S REST FOR A BIT
A——W, I CAN'T BELIE—VE IT'S STILL NOT SETTLED
AREN'T WAVERING THE SLIGHTEST, MATSUKIDA. ..
... YOU REALLY ...
HUH?
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
THUNK
THUNK——


Oh crap, I wavered——!
Ah!
Fhwuuuy
I FELT JUST THEN THAT I RUSHED IT A BIT, AND I REALLY DID MESS U—P!
A—H BUT THAT FELT RE——ALLY NICE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN SO FOCUSED AND FELT SUCH PEACE
phew
A——ngh I'M SUCH AN IDIO——T
WHEN I'M UP AGAINST TOKUNAGA I REALLY DO FEEL MORE SPIRITED
MA-TSU-KIDA
...et's est for a bc
Jch


IF THIS WAS MY LOSS
IT'S FINE...
IT'S FINE IF IT WAS HIS LOSS?
HM?
...EH!
I FORGOT! I'D CHALLENGED HIM TO A PENALTY MATCH!
YOU WERE SHOOTING AS IF IT WERE A REAL TOURNAMENT WEREN'T YOU?
MA-TSUKIDA, DURING THE MATCH JUST NOW


I WOULDN'T THROW A MATCH, OF COURSE, NOT EVEN AN INFORMAL ONE, BUT...
HEH!?
I DISLIKE PEOPLE WHO ONLY THINK OF WINNING
NO WAIT JUST THEN, I WAS MERELY ABSORBED IN THE MOMENT
UMM...S?! THAT WAS...
I WON'T
SAY THINGS LIKE "I LIKE YOU" EVER AGAIN
STROKE
I'LL GIVE UP
HUH?

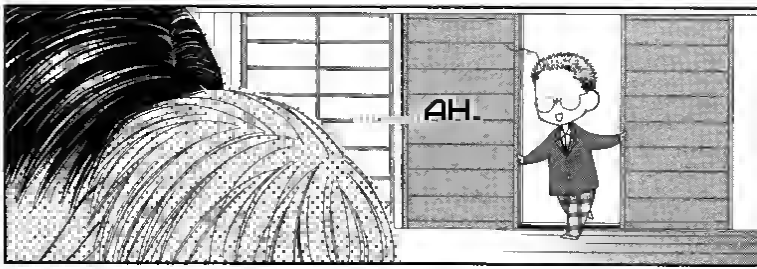

ba-thump
WH-... WHAT SHOULD I DO...
RIGHT NOW.
FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL REALLY... ANXIOUS...
ba-thump
ba-thump
ba-thump
I THOUGHT THAT... AKITSUKIDA YOU... SINCE YOU'VE NEVER SAID THAT YOU DISLIKED ME
TH- THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S NOT THAT I DISLIKE YOU OR ANYTHING
BUT... I WAS JUST BEING ARROGANT...
N- NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!
ba-thump
ba-thump?
ba-thump?
.....
I'M SORRY
.....-ghl!


N-...NO... ...NO NO——!!
IT WAS YOUR WIN JUST NOW!!
DEFINITELY YOUR WIN!!
AND TOKUN-GA WON SO.....
SO.....!
.....IT'S.....
IT'S FINE TO KEEP TO LIKING ME!!

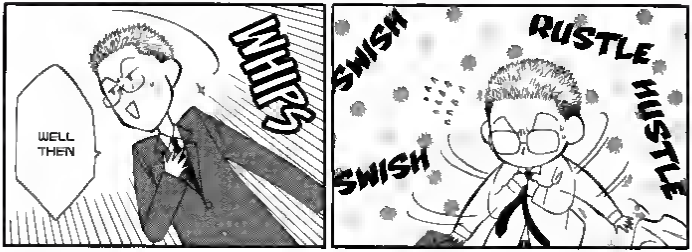

MA-
TSUKIDA
.....
IF YOU'RE FINE WITH ME WINNING THE CHALLENGE...
FWU
MP
HEH?!
YOU'LL LISTEN TO MY REQUEST, RIGHT? MATSUKIDA

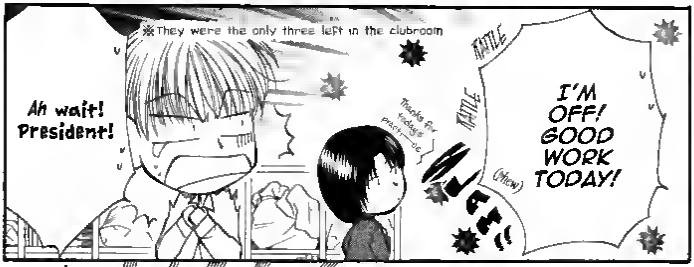

I WANT TO...DO IT WITH YOU, MATSUKIDA.
...!
THAT'S SO SLY. ONLY I HAD A PENALTY IF I'D LOST I WOULD'VE HAD TO KEEP TO YOUR WORDS, MATSUKIDA
FUU— FUU—
!!
I never said that!!
WHA~~ ~~~~~~ ~~T?!
By "it," he, is he talking about
I-, IDIOT! STOP IT, TOKUNAGA! I SAID STOP!
Y-... YOU'RE JOKING....! W-... WAIT WHAT?!


MORNI——NG ♪
TO PRACTICE SO EARLY IN THE DAY, HOW ADMIRA-……

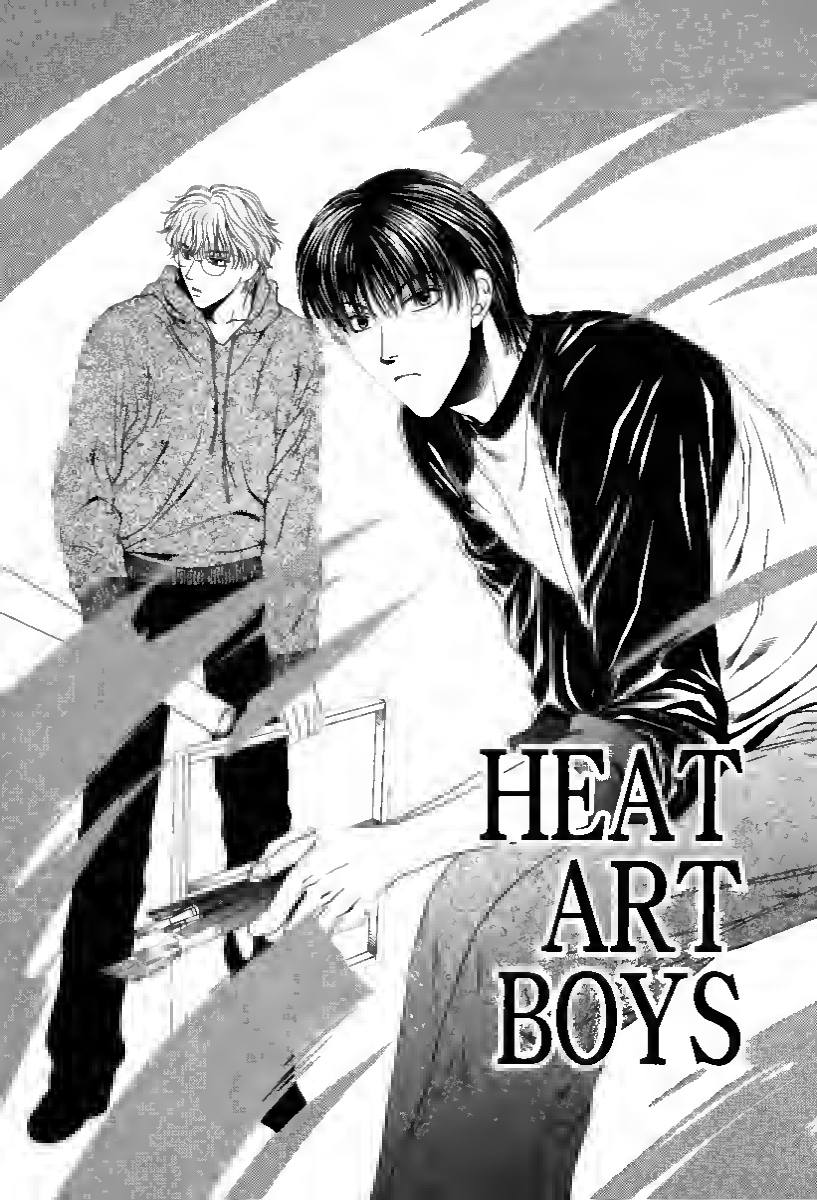

AH.


SOME DAYS AFTER THAT, TOKUNAGA AND I BECAME THE ARCHERY CLUB'S OFFICIAL COUPLE……
Dash
END
pr s d nt!!
O-, DON'T WORRY, MITSUKID…… MY L-, L-LIPS……RE S-, SEALED SO…
That was for real, wasn't it…
NO, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, PREZZIE! THAT WAS……-gh


WELL THEN
WHIPS
SWISH
SWISH
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


※They were the only three left in the clubroom
Ah wait! President!
Thanks for today's practice!
RATTLE
RATTLE
I'M OFF! GOOD WORK TODAY!
(Meow)
JAM!!


Don't touch me—!!
Maybe you're anticipating it?
I'm not anticipating anything—no!
SEEING YOU SO JUMPY MAKES ME WANT TO TOUCH YOU EVEN MORE, BUT...
NO WA—Y! PREZZIE, YOU TRAITOR—! DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE WITH TOKUNAGA—!
.....
STARE—S
JOLTS!!
MATSU-KIDA


HEAT
ART
BOYS


.....sh
I GOT IN.
ruffle
ruffle
IT WAS A LOT OF WORK PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY EXAMS SO I'M HAPPY BECAUSE IT IS SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT, BUT—
.....


Hm? YOU SEEM DOWN, WAS IT BAD NEWS?
MIYA-SAKA
IN THE END, IT'S STILL NOT THE SAME SINCE THIS WASN'T MY FIRST CHOICE
.....WHA-?
AND I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY AS YOU
THE SAME UNIVERSITY
Wh- why.....


WHY IS NAKAO ZENJI AT THIS SCHOOL'S ADMISSIONS ANNOUNCEMENT?!
——I still can't even begin to describe the shock I'd felt at that time
WHAT YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT MIYASAKA?
JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW IN SHOCK HE WAS
WELL OBVIOUSLY! I'D BOUGHT THAT GUY'S PAINTING!
I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT HE'D GO FOR GEIDAI OR SOME OTHER ART SCHOOL, BUT HE CAME INSTEAD TO THIS UNIVERSITY'S RUN-OF-THE-MILL ART DEPARTMENT INSTEAD. sigh WHAT A WASTE!
Don't talk smack about our school, people took great pains to get into here!
Why you run of the mill?
THAT GUY IS REALLY, TRULY AMAZING...
AFTER COMPLETING THE CENTER TESTS, I TOOK A GAP YEAR TO PREPARE FOR SECONDARY EXAMS AND REGISTERED WITH AN ART STUDIO WHICH IS WHERE I MET HIM.
IS THIS SEAT OPEN?
...BUT WE CAN'T EVEN DRAW TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT HERE...
first we have to deal with things like "GE"S
GRIP
CHAP
CHAP


AAH I TOOK IT TOO HOW DO YOU THINK YOU DID?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU HERE BEFORE. SINCE YOU'RE JOINING AT THIS TIME ARE YOU HERE TO PRACTICE DRAWING?
AH YEAH. I'LL MOVE MY BAGS NOW
...OH
OH YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED DRAWING
YEAH
I JUST FINISHED THE CENTER SO STARTING TODAY I'LL...
AT THAT TIME, I WAS COMPLETELY TAKEN ABACK
AND RIGHT AT THAT MOMENT, I THOUGHT, "AAH, THIS GUY COULD EASILY GET INTO GEIDAI BUT NOW
M-E-E-...


WHAT'S THIS? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?
puff
AH THERE YOU ARE, NAKAO-KU—N?
HEY, YOU'RE COMING TO TODAY'S GATHERING FOR THE NEW MEMBERS, RI—GHT?
THE GROUP'S ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF ALL THE PLANS, YOU KNOW?
GLAMOR GLAMOR
CLUTCH
OH MY, YOU HAVE SUCH SENSITIVE EARS, MIYASAKA
AGAIN...?
IT'S SO OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE AIMING FOR NAKAO RATHER THAN SIMPLY INVITING HIM SOMEWHERE
WHY SO GREAT ABOUT THIS GUY?
I don't get it
MIYA-SAKA,


PISSED
SINCE IT'S A WELCOMING PARTY THE FIRST YEARS ARE GETTING TREATED
Oh your Pa—ma? Join us join us♥
YOU FREE TONIGHT?
.....I SEE
NOT GOING! I HAVE MY PART-TIME JOB!
AND ANYWAY I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR CLUB SO DON'T INVITE ME IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WASN'T THAT A BI—T COLD? AFTER ALL, YOU GUYS WERE FRIENDS BEFORE GETTING INTO UNIVERSITY
WE'RE NOT FRIENDS! HE'S JUST SOMEONE I KNOW AN ACQUAINTANCE!
BUT THAT WAS STILL COLD OF YOU
MY MY MY—


ART-WISE, THERE'S A HUGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR SKILL LEVELS, AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON.
AND I DON'T CARE FOR SKIRT-CHASERS LIKE HIM TO BEGIN WITH.
WELL, I CAN'T HELP IT. I'M BAD AT DEALING WITH HIM.
.....
BUT I CAN'T DEAL WITH HIM BECAUSE
DURING MY GAP YEAR AT THE STUDIO, WE WOULD TALK OCCASIONALLY.
"SERIOUSLY, MIYASAKA, WHY AREN'T YOU GOING TO KEEP GOING WITH ART?"


I MEAN, THIS PAINTING IS REALLY GOOD
HE ONCE COMPLIMENTED ME WITHOUT ACTUALLY MEANING IT.
WHEN HE PRAISED ME, IT FELT MORE LIKE HE WAS MAKING FUN OF ME AND I HATED IT
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
OH! HEY THERE MIYASAKA, THE THIRD YEARS WILL BE USING THIS ROOM SOON
Urk
Sensei
WHAT A HARD WORKER, COMING TO DRAW WHEN THE ROOM'S FREE
TACK TACK
Uuurgh, BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY FOR ME
Dammm
EVEN IN THE ART DEPARTMENT, FIRST YEARS HAVE TO DEAL WITH "SE"S SO WE DON'T GET TO TAKE ANY ART CLASSES


FINANCES ASIDE, I'M JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
I say as much all the time.
SINCE IT'S A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY, IT'S TUITION FEES ARE CHEAPER THAN A PRIVATE SCHOOL.
WHAT ABOUT GEIDAI?
Though I was tempted.
My family doesn't have that kind of money.
WELL THEN, WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU'D GONE TO AN ART UNIVERSITY INSTEAD?
But aren't private art universities really expensive?
SCRATCH SCRATCH
I'LL BE FINE EVEN THOUGH I'M TALENTLESS I LIKE TO DRAW SO
I'M AIMING TO BECOME AN ART TEACHER. THAT WAY I CAN STILL DO WHAT I LIKE AND HAVE A STEADY JOB AS A CIVIL SERVANT.
And even have a secured retirement.
YOU CAN GO THERE TO DRAW WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH WORK OR EVEN ON YOUR DAYS OFF.
HOH!!
It's through that door.
THE EMERGENCY EXIT ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THIS ART BUILDING IS NEVER LOCKED.
WELL THEN... AS MY REWARD TO YOU FOR STAYING POSITIVE MIYASAKA...
SUCH IS THE SAD LIFE OF A WORKING-CLASS STUDENT.
Money is more important my dreams.
Ohoho
HOW CRA-FTY, FOR AN ARTIST


ALRIGHT THEN, I'LL DO MY BEST!
WELCOME TO OUR STORE—, IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN GET FOR YOU TO START OFF WITH SOMETHING TO DRINK——?
TWO DRA—FTS!
DEAR ME. YOU'RE QUITE A CHIPPER ONE NEWCOMER KUN
YOU'RE TRYING TO WORK YOUR WAY THROUGH YOUR TUITION FEES, AREN'T YOU—? WHAT AN EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG MAN YOU ARE
Akashiya "THERE IS NO LEISURE FOR THE POOR," AS THEY SAY
Ah, IS THAT SO
WHA-P!
WOW WHAT A COINCIDENCE
AND YOU REALLY ARE WORKING PARTTIME...


WHAT'S WITH YOU IT'S NOT LIKE I LIED OR ANYTHING
Scared the crap out of me
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU TO GET OFF WORK
?
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
WHAT TIME.. DOES YOUR SHIFT END?
what are ya-?


WHAT COULD NAKAO POSSIBLY NEED WITH ME THAT HE'S WILLING TO WAIT FOR MY SHIFT TO END?
BUT MORE THAN THAT, WHY
...NO THANKS, I JUST WANT TO GET HOME.
And besides, you just ate
WHY~~~ DID I ACTUALLY MEET UP WITH HIM!!
WANT TO GO GRAB A BITE TO EAT?
EVEN THOUGH I WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.
!
...YOU'RE SO COLD, MIYASAKA.


YOU BOUGHT MY PAINTING DIDN'T YOU?
WH- WHAT'S WITH THAT? ANYHOW, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOU
WHAT A WEIRD THING TO SAY.
...hmm, BUT
A-, and what's wrong with that?!
It's only because you're... good at... P-, painting...!
...THANK YOU
EH?! CRAP, I ACTUALLY SAID IT
Dammit you're really good! You're really ridiculously good!


TWITCHES
I BOUGHT YOUR'S, TOO, YOU KNOW
IT WAS A NICE PAINTING, MIYASAKA
Nakao, you, that sort of transparent flattery is...!
MIYASAKA ARE YOUR FAMILY'S CIRCUMSTANCES WHY YOU DIDN'T GO FOR AN ART SCHOOL?
Unk WELL, THERE'S THAT, BUT IT'S ALSO
BECAUSE I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR MONEY TO TRY FOR ANOTHER SCHOOL. SO EVEN A UNIVERSITY WITH A SMALL ART PROGRAM IS FINE FOR ME!!
.....
Hmm


TO SEIDAI
NO NO I WAS ACCEPTED
Huh?
...NO WAY WERE YOU REJECTED?
By which school?
Y-- YOU TOO, WHY DIDN'T YOU TRY FOR AN ART SCHOOL?!
BUT I DID TRY
TOUDAI OF ALL ART SCHOOLS!!
WHAT THE, THAT'S THE
Nods
...the nationally ranked school?
Nods
Tokyo University of the Arts?


I CHOSE OUR SCHOOL
BECAUSE IT WAS CLOSER TO HOME... I GUESS?
WHY?
Y-...Y-... you idiot!! Why didn't you go to Geidai instead?!
MIYA-SAKA?


DON'T BULLSHIT ME!!
HE SAID, "BECAUSE IT WAS CLOSER TO HOME."?!
WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? HEY! MIYASAKA!
MIYASAKA!
BA
M
FUCKING SHIT!!


CAN'T FUCKING BELIEVE THIS, THAT BASTARD NAKAO!
SAYING IT... LIKE IT'S COMPLETELY REASONABLE...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S UNFINISHED
...WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PAINTING
IS IT... SENPAI'S...?
...WHAT INCREDIBLE HUES.


I WISH THAT, NAKAO
"IS THE MESSAGE THE ARTWORK CONVEYS
"I LOVE THE LOOK AND FEEL OF BRUSH-STROKES
WOULD BE THIS PASSIONATE ABOUT ART TOO...
NAKAO, PLEASE, BE MORE SERIOUS ABOUT ART, FOR MY SAKE
I FEEL SO MISERABLE...
EVEN JUST A BIT MORE,


Eh...do I really?
OH DEAR DE--AR, YOU'RE LOOKING PALE ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT?
O--H THIS ISN'T GOOD, DEAR. HAVE YOU PICKED UP TOO MANY SHI--FTS?
WOULD YOU PLEASE BRING THIS TO TABLE NUMBER TWO AND OH DEAR!
MIYASAKA-KUN MIYASAKA-KUN!
Di
Mi na...no... I'm fine really--
..ku-kuh?
ZZY
FWOMP
Watanabe-Hayashikawa--
Kyaaa--, MIYASAKA-KUN!!
YOU WORKED TOO HARD!
FUMES!


I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A STUDENT COLLAPSING FROM WORK EXHAUSTION BEFORE
..SHUT IT
SEEMS YOU CAN'T HANDLE WORKING 7 NIGHTS A WEEK AFTER ALL!
I WAS JUST A BIT TIRED IS ALL.
I'VE HAD A LOT ON MY MIND LATELY
EVERYTHING IN MODERATION YOU KNOW MIYASAKA. IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL
IF YOU KEEP WORKING YOURSELF SO HARD, YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO DO THE THINGS YOU
WHAM!
SNAP


... what's with you, "everything in moderation"...!
Is that why. is that why you've half assed everything?!
...DON'T FUCK WITH ME! THAT'S ONE THING I WON'T EVER AGREE WITH YOU ON!
DESPERATELY TRYING TO DO YOUR BEST. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!


HO-
HOLD IT, HOLD IT! WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO START A FIGHT, MIYASAKA!
Hey Hey
YOU'RE BEING TOO HARSH!
WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THOSE WITHOUT...!
PEOPLE WITH NATURAL TALENT
DON'T THINK THAT EVERYBODY CAN BE LIKE YOU!!
WE'RE NOTHING ALIKE!!
...you think I care...
Nahoko Hori, are you okay?
How touching
WHAT'S WITH YOU LATELY——


OH MIYASAKA WHAT'S UP? COMING THIS LATE AT NIGHT
Ahh YOU JUST FINISHED WORK AND CAME BACK TO DRAW?
SENPAI!
YUP I'M WORKING THE NIGHT SHIFT
Well I'm really fast at this
YEAH WE EVEN CLOSED A BIT EARLIER THAN USUAL TODAY BUT
ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY SENPAI?
BUT STILL THIS YEAR'S FRESHMEN ARE IMPRESSIVE
THERE'S ANOTHER GUY WHO'S STILL HERE EVEN NOW AND HE COMES TO PAINT NEARLY EVERY DAY
EH- E- E-HP? EVEN FOR ME TODAY'S ONLY MY SECOND TIME DOING THIS BUT
KRR
THERE'S A GUY WHO'S BEEN HERE EVERY NIGHT?
OH CRAP! I'VE A BUS TO CATCH LATER MIYASAKA GOOD LUCK!
Eh?! WHO I-
SPU


OH, IT'S YOU MIYASAKA
WHAT'S WRONG? COMING AT SUCH A TIME
CREAK
WHO COULD IT POSSIBLY BE...
.....
...I-, I CAME TO DRAW A BIT. BUT UMM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE NAKAO?
NAKAO?!
I'M PRETTY MUCH HERE EVERY DAY AROUND THIS TIME TO PAINT
I'M WORKING ON MY STUFF, TOO

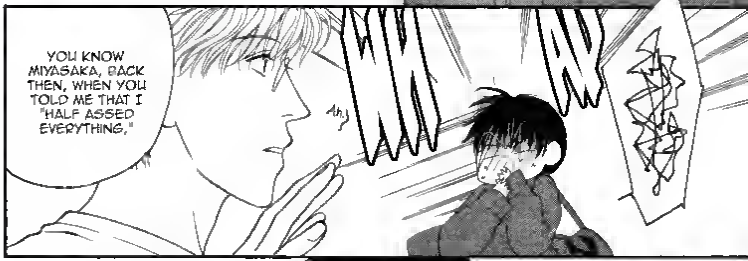

EV-
EVERY
DAY?!
ba-thump
!
IS
THAT...
YOUR
PAINTING...?
HM?
Ahh,
YEAH
A LOT OF
THINGS HAVE
BEEN
HAPPENING
SINCE EXAMS
ENDED SO I
HAVEN'T
REALLY HAD
THE TIME TO
PAINT
I'VE
BEEN
TRYING MY
BEST TO
MAKE UP
FOR LOST
TIME
I JUST
RECENTLY
REMEMBERED
THAT I HAD
THIS PIECE
...THIS
WAS
NAKAO'S
PAINTING ALL
ALONG..


I'M REALLY SUCH AN IDIOT.
I SPOKE OUT OF TURN ON SOMETHING THAT WASN'T ANY OF MY BUSINE- ...
MIYASAKA, SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE
I'M...
OH RIGHT!
...NAKAO
THIS GUY LOVES ART
CLATTER
I'M SORRY.....
AS MUCH AS I DO.


I RECKLESSLY ASSUMED THINGS ABOUT YOU
AND SAID SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS
I'M REALLY SORRY.....
I DIDN'T THINK OF IT THAT WAY
...BUT
...BUT STILL...
...MI-YASAKA
!


Hiccup...

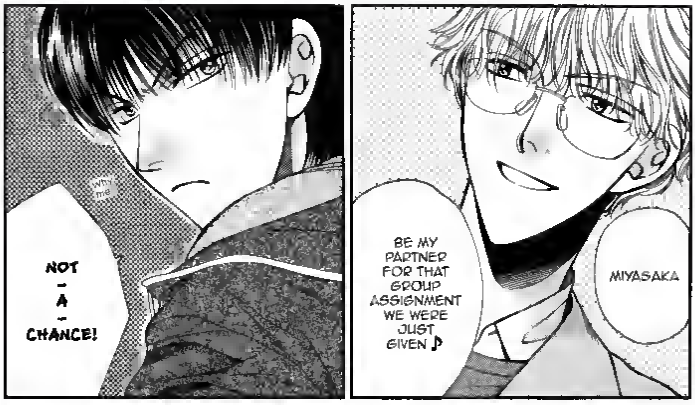



YOU KNOW MIYASAKA, BACK THEN, WHEN YOU TOLD ME THAT I "HALF ASSED EVERYTHING,"
Ah,
WAH
AW


SWEAT SWEAT
Wh- wh- why- why did Hachiko
Wh- why- I'll k- ki- -ss
YOU WERE RIGHT
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THINGS OTHER THAN PAINTING AND I RARELY TAKE AN INTEREST IN THINGS
SWEAT

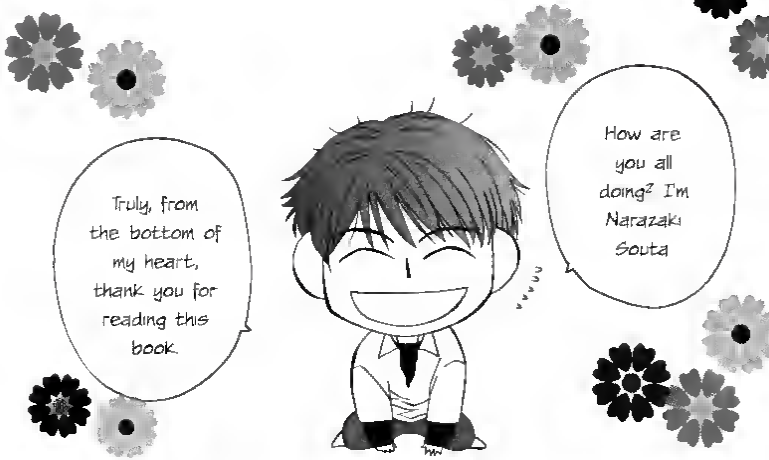

YOU "PINGED" ON MY RADAR, MIYASAKA
IT WAS A GOOD THING I FOLLOWED YOU HERE ♪
WHAT?!
YOU YOU! I WAS REALLY JUST CHASING AFTER YOU, MIYASAKA
...Nakan... you you came to this school be-... Beca-... because ...!
!!
SHOCKED
...you chose
NO WAY... NO FUCKING WAY
you chose me..... over... Geidai?
Hinches
GRINS

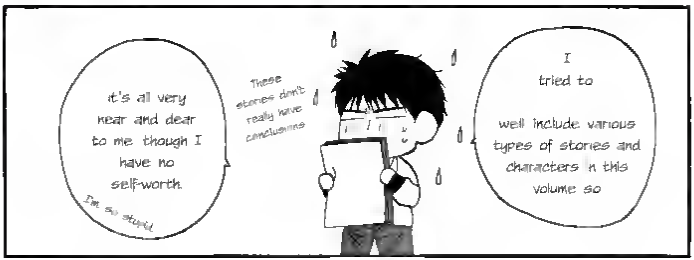

I CAN ONLY MEET YOU HERE, MIYASAKI
I CAN PAINT WHEREVER I GO, BUT
Urgh
NO MATTER HOW I—— WANTED TO THINK THAT THIS WAS JUST A SIMPLE "KISS OF FRIENDSHIP," MY WISH WOULD NEVER COME TRUE...
Waaaaah don't kiss me~~~!!
Eh, WHY? BUT WASN'T IT THE RIGHT MOOD?
END

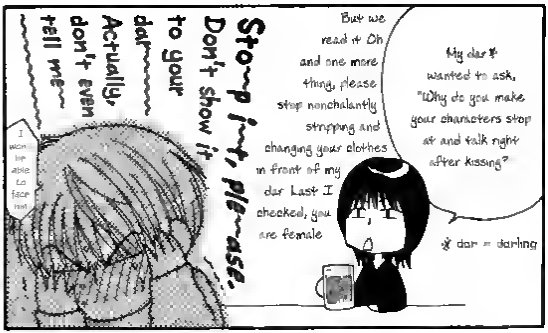

NOT
-A-
CHANCE!
with me!
BE MY PARTNER FOR THAT GROUP ASSIGNMENT WE WERE JUST GIVEN ♪
MIYASAKA


PIQUED
...OH. I GUESS YOU DON'T WANT TO BECAUSE YOU THINK OUR SKILL LEVELS ARE DIFFERENT...
Can't You Tell(ed) Him
Awww, you've no confidence!


SO-- WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO LURE MIYASAKA IN?
WE HAVE THREE WEEKS TO WORK ON THIS ASSIGNMENT ♪
Though I'm really fond of this shy thing, too
MIYASAKA'S INNOCENCE IS TOO CO~~~TE
I'LL DO IT!
You're underestimating your own abilities
Nooooo~♡


How are you all doing? I'm Narazaki Souta
Truly, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for reading this book.


I tried to well include various types of stories and characters in this volume so
These stories don't really have conclusions
It's all very near and dear to me though I have no self-worth
I'm so stupid


My dar♯ wanted to ask, "Why do you make your characters stop at and talk right after kissing?"
But we read it. Oh and one more thing, please stop nonchalantly stripping and changing your clothes in front of my dar. Last I checked, you are female
♯ dar = darling
Stop it, please. Don't show it to your dar~~~~ Actually, don't even tell me~~~
I won't be able to face her!!
Which reminds me. I made a new friend as I was writing these stories...
This is how she is

Three sisters, dead.

On another note as I was working on these stories, my younger sister tore a ligament and it caused a lot of hardships.

I the manga artist had to travel 4 hours roundtrip every 4 or 5 days in order to help out her younger sister at her place

The oldest sister ordinarily a strict overseer at a cram school, abused the Labor Standards Act and took 77 days off from work to go to her younger sister's home

The youngest sister who recently underwent surgery for a torn ligament and had to commute using crutches to and from rehabilitation and her workplace.

Sorry for the trouble

Speaking of which, I don't know how to feel about having to address your husband as "dear"

It's not a big deal. My dear is a "darling" after all

Is that so?

Can you handle it!?

Mom

He's counting on you!

Our parents work in the countryside

It's the truth

SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH

Ee~h?!

Wuss, because of something of this level?!

Wuuaargh~!! I forgot to use a towel!! No wonder I couldn't concentrate!!

There was also this kind of thing

What's with this, what's with me? Is it summer heat fatigue? I can't seem to concentrate on my drafts~~~

Hurry up and come!

Older Sister

Wait~~

Please continue to watch over me

Well even though a lot of things happened this time around, I was able to publish my stories safely. I'm sincerely grateful for my readers and for the people who have supported me. None of this could have been done without your help and encouragement


BY THE POWER OF LOVE♡

Dear Readers

「愛に気づけよ」はいかがでしたか？
この本に関するご意見、ご感想などを下記のあて先までどしどしお寄せください。また、楢崎壮太先生へのはげましのおたよりもお待ちしております。
<ご意見・ご感想>
〒113-0024 東京都文京区西片2-19-18
新書館ディアプラス編集部 「愛に気づけよ」係
<はげましのおたより>
〒113-0024 東京都文京区西片2-19-18
新書館ディアプラス編集部気付 楢崎壮太先生

初出

青い果実	Dear+1月号（2003）
愛に気づけよ	Dear+7月号（2003）
想いし花のその名を呼べ	Dear+6月号（2003）
その目で射抜け！	Dear+8月号（2003）
HEAT ART BOYS	サウス2月号（2002）

愛に気づけよ

初版発行◎●2003年10月15日

著者●楢崎壮太（ならざきそうた）

発行所●株式会社新書館　〒113-0024東京都文京区西片2-19-18　TEL：03-3811-2631
（営業）〒174-0043東京都板橋区坂下1-22-14
TEL：03-5970-3840　FAX：03-5970-3847
[URL]http://www.shinshokan.co.jp/
印刷・製本●図書印刷

定価はカバーに表示してあります。
落丁・乱丁本はお取替えいたします。

ISBN4-403-66078-9
Printed in Japan

◎この作品はすべてフィクションです。実在の人物、事件、団体などにはいっさい関係ありません。